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BEFORE THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

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Application Number: 09/396,531

Group Art Unit: 3711

Filing Date: 09/15/99

Examiner Name: William M. Pierce

Inventors: Randall A. Addington, et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 99-1001

Title: Bowlers Finger Pad Shield

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Assistant Commissioner for Patents

COMPLAINT

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2002

I.

Background

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

On 11/26/01, Applicant filed a reply brief and PTO/SB/32, Request for Oral Hearing Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences with a check payment of \$140 in payment of the oral hearing fee.

The last official communication received was Paper No. 20, mailed 12/11/2001, notifying Applicant " ... the reply brief filed 11/29/01 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent appeals and Interferences for decision on appeal."

On April 22, 2002, a facsimile Request for Status was sent to Tech Center 3700. A telephone and email response on April 22, 2002 informed me this the Reply Brief was entered on Dec. 11, 2001 and the file was charged to the Board of Appeals on April 16, 2002.

A petition to make this application special under 37 CFR 102(c) has been granted.

II.

Contentions

The Patent Office took the extraordinary amount of almost six (6) months time to move this Application to the Board of Appeals, after it completed its last action of entering the Reply Brief.

This six (6) time period is an inexcusable delay in the processing of any application and especially in this Application made special under Rule 102(c).

III.

Complaint

Applicants assert this delay is without justifiable cause and unduly delays the examination of their Application.

Applicants request an explanation of this delay and an immediate scheduling of an oral hearing date before the Board of Appeals..

Yours truly,



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